

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities
Council

10 October, 2019
15 October, 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

The Coventry Award of Merit

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary

On 9 September, 2019, the City of Volgograd was nominated to receive the Coventry Award of Merit. The nomination was considered by the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel unanimously supported the nomination. The Cabinet Member is requested to consider the nomination in light of the advice of the Advisory Panel.

Recommendations:

1. That the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considers the advice from the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel that the City of Volgograd be granted the Coventry Award of Merit and, if considered appropriate, recommends that the City Council grants the Coventry Award of Merit to the City of Volgograd.
2. That the City Council considers the recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and grants the Coventry Award of Merit to the City of Volgograd.

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

Yes – The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 15 October, 2019

Report title:**The Coventry Award of Merit****1. Context (or background)**

1.1 The Coventry Award of Merit was established by the City Council in the 1960s as a means of acknowledging and honouring personal behaviour reflecting the highest ideals of citizenship or outstanding performance in any field of human endeavour which enhances the good name of Coventry and affords inspiration to its citizens.

The Award has previously taken the form of a citation under the common seal together with a presentation of a gold medallion pendant from a ribbon in the City's colours. The motif on the medallion is the phoenix, symbolising the resurgence of Coventry from the flames of the Blitz.

1.2 The Advisory Panel is made up of the following members:

- Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor A S Khan (Chair)
- Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, Councillor J Mutton
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor A Andrews
- Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Councillor R Brown, (or his representative)
- The Lord Mayor, ex officio, Councillor L Bigham
- The Council's Honorary Recorder, His Honour Judge A Lockhart

1.3 The Advisory Panel were consulted following the receipt of a nomination for the City of Volgograd and unanimously supported the granting of the Award. The Advisory Panel noted that, whilst a City has never been granted the Award before, the long, historic and significant relationship between the two Cities totally captures the spirit of the Award. This relationship enhances Coventry's renowned reputation as the City of peace and reconciliation.

1.4 The City of Volgograd has been twinned with Coventry for 75 years and, as one of the original United Nations "International Peace Messenger Cities", continues to work hard to promote peace and understanding between nations. A copy of the nomination form is attached as an Appendix to this report.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is requested to consider the advice from the Advisory Panel and make an appropriate recommendation to the City Council at their meeting on 15 October, 2019.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel were consulted on the nomination and the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities will consider the Panel's advice in making his recommendations to Council.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities will consider the recommendation from the Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel and will then make a recommendation regarding the award to the City Council at their meeting on 15 October, 2019.

4.2 Should the Council approve the award on 15 October, 2019, suitable arrangements will be made for an Awards Ceremony, to tie in with a visit to Coventry by a delegation from Volgograd in November, 2019 to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Twinning. The award would be presented to the Chairman of Volgograd City Administration, representing the City of Volgograd.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

If approved, as in previous years, the costs associated with the Ceremony and the Award will be met from within the existing budget of the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Budget.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this decision.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council Plan?

One of the Council's key priorities is to develop a strong sense of civic pride across the city. These awards give recognition to individuals or organisations that have rendered outstanding service to the city and promote civic pride.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

None identified.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

These Awards enhance and promote the reputation of the Council and the City of Coventry

6.4 Equalities / EIA

There are no EIA implications

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

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Directorate:

Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Adrian West	Members and Election Team Manager	Place	10/09/19	
Lara Knight	Governance Services Officer		10/09/19	11/09/19
Jane Barlow	Civic Office Manager	Place	10/09/19	11/09/19
Julie Fairbrother	Communications Manager	People	24/09/19	24/09/19
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Graham Clark	Lead Accountant, Finance	Place	10/09/19	10/09/19
Legal: Julie Newman	City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer	Place	10/09/19	19/09/19
Director: Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	10/09/19	17/09/19
Deputy Chief Executive: Martin Yardley	Deputy Chief Executive, Place	Place	24/09/19	26/09/19
Members:	Councillor A S Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	24/09/19	24/09/19

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Award of Merit Nomination

Volgograd

The friendship between Coventry and Volgograd was cemented as a result of both cities experiencing the devastation of the Second World War.

Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, was reduced to rubble in 1942 when it was subjected to one of the largest and bloodiest battles in the history of warfare.

At the time of the onslaught, women from Coventry sent messages of hope to the women of Stalingrad having experienced the Coventry Blitz just a few years earlier. The first message read "From this city scarred and ravaged by the arch enemy of civilisation, our hearts go out to you, who now face slaughter and suffering even more fearful".

During the devastating Battle of Stalingrad 900 Coventry women signed their names (which were then embroidered) on a tablecloth which was sent with a message of sympathy to the women of Stalingrad. This tablecloth has an honoured place in the Panorama Museum of the Battle of Stalingrad.

The messages were followed by supplies and medicine and our friendship was made official 75 years ago when our two cities led the way in international twinning and we have been firm friends ever since.

We are now recognised by the United Nations as the initiators of the international twinning movement, a symbol of friendship and commonality between two cities.

Over the last 75 years Volgograd have maintained links with Coventry and have kept in constant contact with the City, visiting regularly and attending Remembrance Day Services and other special commemorations.

As one of the original UN "International Peace Messenger Cities", Volgograd continues to work hard to promote peace and understanding between nations.

To thank the city and its citizens for all it does to promote peace and reconciliation, we hereby nominate Volgograd for the Coventry Award of Merit and look forward to continuing our work together.

Cllr Pervez Akhtar
Deputy Cabinet Member, Policing and Equalities

9th September 2019